

ABSTRACT

Graphical EXIT signs as an alternative to red lettering signs for passenger aircraft.

Regulatory Study

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Experimental research carried out on aircraft Emergency Marking since 1995 shows that graphical signage is a promising alternative to language based EXIT signs. A series of concepts derived from building's have been developed and tested both for comprehensibility and legibility over 5 years, until three candidates could be selected.

Civil engineering provided the green and white safety colour coding and a combination of civil engineering and aircraft design standards whatever the most stringent were used as legibility and illumination criteria. The participation of European Aviation Authorities, Aircraft Manufacturers, Airlines and Cabin Crew organisations, with the technical support of On-board Human-machine Interface and Lighting partners, has given the project the level of confidence required to put the graphical EXIT signage into use. Thorough simulation ranged from non-illuminated coloured panel's, to illuminated polycarbonate cover's screen printed with ink optimised for the transmission of light.

Visible change in the cabin interior of these aircraft will be the replacement of red letters, used to convey Stop and Prohibition messages, with green Symbols. The colour green being used to signal Safe conditions and Means of Escape, with good performance under cabin smoke conditions.

Main merits of the new EXIT marking concept will be better comprehensibility scores. Meaning an improved level of safety, with a universal evacuation message whatever the aircraft routes, and language associated design/procurement work alleviated for manufacturers.